

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for use in determining the cardiac output. The method include quantitatively measuring the patient's airflow, a first parameter indicative of the percent oxygen inhaled and exhaled by the patient, and a second parameter indicative of the patient's fractional arterial oxygen concentration. The method also includes inducing a change in the patient's arterial oxygen concentration while taking these measurements to monitor the effects of the change in the patient's arterial oxygen concentration. The cardiac output is determined from the data collected regarding the effects of the change in the patient's arterial oxygen concentration.